

# *Gender Equity in the Classroom Viewing Guide*

Viewer Audience: Educators K-12, Pre-service Programs, Staff Development  
Program Length: 1 hour

## **Introduction**

While the past few decades have seen an improvement in the treatment of females in classroom methods and curricular materials, it would be premature to declare victory and dismiss issues of gender bias. Today, our girls and boys remain the victims of gender stereotypes in text and resource materials. They are also victims of unintended or sexist behaviors by educators. Often teachers reflect varied expectations for children, based on a student's gender, class, race and ethnicity.

Most teachers care deeply about the youngsters in their rooms. They are confident that they treat all their students the same. However, many teachers who analyze their own attitudes and behaviors, discover the subtle and pervasive nature of gender inequity in the classroom.

This program is one tool for that self-observation, analysis and reflection. The program is based around three scripted classroom scenes, each demonstrating significant gender bias. The scenes are then rewritten to show more equitable and effective teaching. This viewing guide provides suggestions on how to effectively use the video in staff development or education classes. At the end of the guide, you will find key background information and additional resources to better prepare you to teach gender equity issues.

## **Viewing Preparation**

- Preview the video and review several of the support materials in the resource section at the end of this guide.
- At several points in the video, you will see a graphic: “**STOP TAPE**”. Plan to use these pauses for conversation and activities so that the viewer is engaged and the content(subtle and overt) encourages interaction. You may want to pause the tape for discussion after the content summaries (recapped at the end of this guide) that appear on “chalkboards” during the program. Feel free to stop the video at other points you feel necessary or use only appropriate sections of the video if your audience already has some knowledge of the issues.
- Be prepared for questions about your school's policies and practices regarding Title IX (1972) of the Education Amendments which prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs. Discussion may range from gender segregated lines in the hallways to gender dominated classes in math, science, technology, fine arts or special education.
- Conversations about diversity (sexism, racism and similar topics) reflect personal, as well as professional, experiences. Meaningful discussions are too often avoided with denial ("I treat everyone the same;" "I don't see color when I see my students.") or resistance ("It's the boys who are the victims, not the girls.").Facilitators are encouraged to skillfully expand